

ICITAP Equipment Donations Yield Results in Colombia

On August 27, 2003, the Colombian National Police (CNP) Forensic Laboratory reported that the Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS) equipment, database, and training donated by ICITAP as part of its Plan Colombia Human Rights Forensic Initiative, have led to important discoveries in two current investigations. In the first case, IBIS was used in an investigation by the Department of Casanare to link nine separate homicides to the same Beretta .9mm pistol. One arrest was made on the basis of this evidence. In the second case, the Department of Guajira used IBIS to link twelve separate homicides to another .9mm pistol. That investigation is ongoing. As the CNP and other law enforcement agencies using the IBIS equipment further populate the database, more ballistics matches are expected, thereby enabling more arrests in crimes involving firearms.